

March 2, 1976

SENATOR LEWIS: Which I think is unconstitutional because the Constitution says five to twenty-one.

SENATOR KEYES: Senator Lewis, I'll ask you another question. You seem to be complaining quite a bit about diagnostic testing. Now whose responsibility is it to find these children that need this special education? Is it the district or is it the State Board of the....is it the state's responsibility?

SENATOR LEWIS: The state passed the law first of all requiring the schools to provide the services, but they never have, and you can't provide the services unless you identify the kids.

SENATOR KEYES: In other words, the school was supposed to provide education for these students but they didn't do it. Then we come along and say that they have to do it and we are going to finance the diagnostic testing then? The state is?

SENATOR LEWIS: First of all the state is responsible for the education of children. We designate the school districts to carry out that function for us.

SENATOR KEYES: That is right. If they don't do it we are going to come along, and we have demanded that they do it, and we will pick up 90% of the expense. It seems to be some disagreement in that 90% that we are picking up whether diagnostic testing should be the one thing. I was told in one school district that diagnostic testing happened to be a big rip off that all they got out of it after they paid their money was a half a school teacher more per year. Now I have never been against getting an education for these students. But, it seems like every year we come down here with new programs and new additions to this and now as I understand it it is either 13½ million or 25 million. What is the figure that this is going too? How much is this really going to reach? With this bill coming in now this year close to a million dollars, and in two years from now will it be three million? I don't know. Someplace when you sit on the revenue committee and try to figure where the money is coming from, you have just got to figure just where it is going once in awhile too.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak, did you want recognition again? Senator Murphy, now did you want Senator Lewis to go through these sixty sections one by one?

SENATOR MURPHY: My intent was that he touch on each section that they have altered, but if the body does not wish that, then certainly I am not going to impose it. I have read the bill, but I do feel that we have bounced around here generally and the reason that we get into these things is that we do not consider them one at a time. This bill was going to come up to be passed. We have about four controversial sections already and the good that is in the bill will probably die with it if we do not take it a section at a time. I still would recommend it, and while I am recommending it I want to tell these people who keep reciting that this bill was passed unanimously that you had better believe that there was a lot of discussion and there were a few of us including myself who did not support that bill and who made some very flattering statements about 302 in the same concept. So, let's not wave that total support flag, because total support there